

Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 257, Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 326 and 327.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, on July 6 and July 7, I was away from Washington on official Congressional business. During that time, I was unable to vote on several issues of importance to the people of my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 328, "aye" on rollcall No. 329, "no" on rollcall No. 331, and "aye" on rollcall No. 332.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 305, "no" on rollcall No. 306, "no" on rollcall No. 307, "no" on rollcall No. 308, "no" on rollcall No. 309, "no" on rollcall No. 311, "no" on rollcall No. 312, "yes" on rollcall No. 314, "no" on rollcall No. 315, "no" on rollcall No. 316, "no" on rollcall No. 317, "no" on rollcall No. 318, "yes" on rollcall No. 319, "no" on rollcall No. 320, "yes" on rollcall 322, "yes" on rollcall No. 323, "no" on rollcall No. 324, and "yes" on rollcall No. 325.

ADAM G. KINSER POST OFFICE BUILDING

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, a national hero, a loving son and brother, a dedicated student, athlete, and a proud father to-be. These are just a few of the phrases that can be used to describe Adam Kinser of Rio Vista, CA. Although no list of descriptions can ever fully do justice to understanding the bravery and compassion of a young man who gave his life for his country at the age of 21.

Adam Gareth Kinser was born in 1983 in Valencia, CA and grew up in Rio Vista with his parents and four younger siblings from the time he was five. There was nothing typical about Adam, who from a young age was a standout, not only among his peers and teammates, but to his teachers and family as well. Adam was a hard-working student, even serving as a teaching assistant in some classes.

Bill Fulk, a former teacher of Adam's, praised the young man as the "best the

United States had to offer." He was a role model to other students, demonstrating a positive attitude, kind heart and willingness to help. He was an outstanding varsity athlete, running track, playing basketball, and was the starting quarterback for 3 years. His strong leadership and commitment didn't end at school or on the field though, he was also a mentor and protector to his younger siblings, one of whom recalls that Adam "was always protecting me even when I didn't want it."

Perhaps it was not a surprise that Adam also wanted to serve and protect his country, when he joined the Army Reserve during his senior year of high school. Adam was in boot camp at Fort Bragg, NC, when the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and was sent to Afghanistan in July 2003.

Adam returned home during Christmas, where his wife, Tiffany, surprised him with an ultrasound of their soon-to-be-born son. He was ecstatic and could not wait to be a father, counting down the days until he would be reunited with his wife and new baby. This did not stop Adam from taking pride in the job he was doing for his country and in the bonds that he treasured with his fellow soldiers.

Adam returned to Afghanistan after Christmas, serving in the Army Reserve's 304th Psychological Operations Company. However, on January 29, 2004, Adam and eight other soldiers were working near a weapons cache near Ghanzi, 60 miles southwest of Kabul, when an explosion took place that claimed his life and those of his fellow soldiers.

Adam's death has sent Rio Vista into a period of mourning and loss for the young man that many of them knew and loved so well, and had watched mature into a brave leader. The community of Rio Vista remembers him fondly, and will surely miss him, not least of all his family and newborn son.

Adam was the first Rio Vistan to give his life in wartime since the Korean War. As Rio Vista Mayor Marcie Coglianese said, "he is the embodiment of all our values." In order to ensure that the memory and name of this young man, father, and soldier, lives on, the least we can do is to re-name the post office in his home town, as an honor for the town, family and country that produced such a great man.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. MARINE RODERICKA ANTWAN YOUMANS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week South Carolina learned the sad news that a U.S. Marine, Private Rodericka Antwan Youmans from Allendale, S.C., was killed by terrorists while serving in Iraq.

Pvt. Youmans will be remembered for making the ultimate sacrifice to protect American families in the War on Terror. The thoughts and prayers of the entire Wilson family are with his friends and family.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to Pvt. Youman's two children, fiancé, brother and parents.

I request that the following article from The State be added to the RECORD.

[From The State, July 8, 2004]

ALLENDALE MARINE DIES IN IRAQ

(By Chuck Crumbo)

A bomb attack by Iraqi insurgents has killed a 22-year-old Marine from Allendale, the man's family said Wednesday.

Pvt. Rodericka Antwan Youmans was one of four Marines who died Tuesday near Fallujah in Iraq's Al-Anbar province, said his father, Johnny Youmans.

The elder Youmans said Marine Corps officials notified him of his son's death Tuesday.

"I was coming home, and I saw a government truck in front of the house. I knew it was nothing good," said Youmans, a 29-year military veteran.

The Marines had not released by late Wednesday the name of Pvt. Youmans as one of the fallen Leathernecks. The Marines said only that the troops were conducting security operations in the province.

Three Marines died Monday in a similar incident in An-Anbar.

Twenty-one other members of the armed services with ties to South Carolina have died in the Iraq war. He is the second casualty from Allendale County.

Marine casualty officers notified the family of his son's death about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Youmans said.

The Marines first broke the news to Youmans' wife, Amaderlene. As he approached the house, his 17-year-old daughter, Sholanda, came out and told him Rodericka was dead, Johnny Youmans said.

Johnny Youmans, a staff sergeant in 163rd Support Battalion of the S.C. Army National Guard, has been on active duty for 1½ years. He is serving on a security detail at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

Youmans said his son called home last week to say he was doing fine and that "he loved all of us."

On Monday, Rodericka Youmans called his 20-year-old fiancée, Stephanie Cuthbertson of Allendale.

They were planning to marry in September when his unit was scheduled to return to Camp LeJeune, Cuthbertson said.

"I loved everything about him. His sense of humor and the way he treated me. He was very sweet and very giving," she said.

Rodericka Youmans, a graduate of Allendale-Fairfax High School, joined the Marines about a year ago and went through boot camp at Parris Island, Youmans said.

"He was almost 21 when he joined. He couldn't find a job and when he did, he'd get laid off because the economy was so bad. He had two kids (ages 4 and 1) and needed to support them."

Rodericka quickly fell in love with the Marines and wanted to make a career out of the military, Youmans said.

"He liked the respect that he received. It changed his whole life. He wanted to do the right thing."

Other survivors include his children, A-Miyah, 4, and Mekhi, 1; and a brother, Johnny Youmans Jr., 24.

Cave Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

CONGRATULATING THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pennsylvania State University